

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Continuation of Serial No. 09/172,962

Applicant: Yoichiro SAKO, et al.

U.S. Serial No.: Filed Concurrently Herewith

Title of Invention: SIGNAL RECORDING/REPRODUCING METHOD  
AND APPARATUS, SIGNAL RECORD MEDIUM AND  
SIGNAL TRANSMISSION/RECEPTION METHOD  
AND APPARATUS

Examiner H. Nguyen

Art Unit 2615

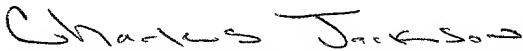
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application (35 U.S.C. 111)  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

100-450100-3642.3

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please add the following as the first paragraph on page 1 of the specification:

--This is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/172,962 filed October 14, 1998 which is a divisional of application Serial No. 08/698,089, filed August 15, 1996.--

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-72.

Please add new claims 73-88 as follows:

73. A signal encoding method characterized by:

detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a predetermined time interval; and

inserting an identification signal relevant to the video signal and/or audio signal only within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/or audio signal.

74. A signal encoding method as claimed in claim 73, wherein said identification signal is inserted into the video signal and/or audio signal in such a configuration as to be detectable on statistical processing of the video signal and/or audio signal.

75. A signal encoding method as claim in claim 74, wherein said identification signal is inserted into least significant bits of samples of the video signal and/or audio signal.

76. A signal recording method comprising:

detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a predetermined time interval;

inserting an identification signal relevant to the video signal and/or audio signal only within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/or audio signal; and

recording the video signal and/or audio signal, into which said identification signal has been inserted, on a signal record medium.

77. A signal encoder characterized by:

detecting means for detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a predetermined time interval; and

inserting means for inserting an identification signal relevant to the video signal and/or audio signal only within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/or audio signal.

78. A signal encoder as claimed in claim 77, wherein said identification signal is inserted into the video signal and/or audio signal in such a configuration as to be detectable on statistical processing of the video signal and/or audio signal.

79. A signal encoder as claimed in claim 78, wherein said identification signal is inserted into least significant bits of samples of the video signal and/or audio signal.

80. A signal recording apparatus comprising:

detecting means for detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a predetermined time interval;

inserting means for inserting an identification signal relevant to the video signal and/or audio signal only within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/or audio signal; and

recording means for recording the video signal and/or audio signal, into which said identification signal has been inserted, on a signal record medium.

81. A signal transmitting method comprising:

detecting a high signal level portion of a video signal and/or audio signal in a predetermined time interval;

inserting an identification signal relevant to the video signal and/or audio signal only within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/or audio signal; and

transmitting the video signal and/or audio signal into which said identification signal has been inserted.

82. A record medium comprising:

a program management area or table of contents area, and

a program area including an audio signal and/or a video signal;

wherein an identification signal relevant to the video signal and/or audio signal is inserted therein only within a low signal level portion temporally before or after the detected high level portion of the video signal and/or audio signal in a predetermined time interval.

83. The record medium as claimed in claim 82, wherein said identification signal is inserted into the video signal and/or audio signal in such a configuration as to be detectable on statistical processing of the video signal and/or audio signal.

84. The record medium as claimed in claim 83, wherein said identification signal is inserted into least significant bits of samples of the video signal and/or audio signal.

85. The record medium as claimed in claim 82, wherein said record medium is an optical disc that has a center aperture, a lead-in area, a program area and end area, and wherein the program management area or table of contents area are located on the lead-in area.

86. The record medium as claimed in claim 85, wherein said optical disc is CD, CD-ROM, or DVD.

87. The record medium as claimed in claim 82, wherein said record medium is a semi-conductor record medium, magnetic disc or a tape-shaped record medium.

88. The record medium as claimed in claim 82, wherein the video signal and/or audio signal is encoded or modulated in accordance with MPEG1 standard, MPEG 2 standard, an adaptive transform acoustic coding (ATRAC), or a PCM.--

#### REMARKS

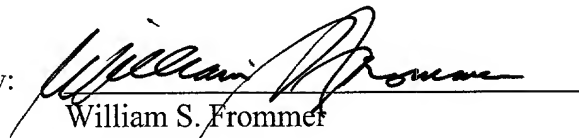
This preliminary amendment makes reference to the parent application and cancels those claims that are being prosecuted in the parent. New claims 73-80 have been added. These claims are the same as those cancelled by the Examiner in the parent application as being directed to a different invention.

Entry of the above amendatory matter and early examination on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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